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OFFICER DEATHS

CBS News: Virginia state trooper, drug suspect shot to death during home search

A Virginia state trooper was killed when someone inside a home fired a weapon at police executing a search warrant during a drug investigation. The person who killed Trooper Lucas Dowell was shot and killed by police.

GUN REGULATIONS

NPR: Bump stocks will soon be illegal, but that's not stopping sales

There's a countdown clock on the website for RW Arms, a Texas-based seller of firearms accessories. It tracks the days, hours, minutes and seconds until they're no longer permitted to sell bump stocks, devices that allow semi-automatic rifles to fire almost as fast as illegal machine guns. RW Arms' sales pitch does not dwell on the fact that, by March 26, its customers will have to destroy or hand in any bump stocks they buy. In fact, no bump stocks will be "grandfathered in." The new federal rule reclassifies them all as "machine guns," no matter when they were purchased, and owning one will become a felony. But it's anyone's guess how many people will dispose of their bump stocks. About half a million of the devices have been sold since 2010, and so far relatively few have been turned in to authorities - even in the handful of states that banned them before the federal rule came out in December.

GUN VIOLENCE

Washington Post: U.S. to prosecute District's armed ex-convicts in federal court in surge against gun violence

Scores of D.C. defendants will be prosecuted for federal gun crimes rather than local charges in the next year as part of a citywide crackdown on convicted felons caught illegally possessing a firearm and repeat violent offenders, four officials briefed on the plan said. With homicides in the District climbing 40 percent last year and still spiking, federal prosecutors' eventual goal is to bring all "felon-in-possession" gun cases to U.S. District Court instead of D.C. Superior Court, according to the people briefed on the plan. In 2018, there were 350 of those stand-alone gun cases brought in the District, but only one-quarter were charged as federal crimes.

Tampa Bay Times: Op-ed by Clearwater Police Chief Dan Slaughter: Scientology gets no special favors from Clearwater police, chief says

For years the Clearwater Police Department has been thrust into the middle of a debate between a controversial religion and its critics, without a voice in the matter. We feel it important to publish some facts of our own to provide the city we serve and anyone else who may be interested with some perspective.

OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS

Idaho Falls Post-Register: No uniform approach for law enforcement releasing the names of officers involved in shootings

In choosing to withhold the name of the trooper who shot Jesse Jesus Quinton in self-defense in November, Idaho State Police officials cited state police policy and concerns for the trooper's safety. Law enforcement agencies must balance the public's trust, the rights and safety of the officer as well as the integrity of the investigation itself when deciding to release an officer's name. The final decision can vary depending on the specifics of what happened as well as individual agency policies.

TECHNOLOGY

CBS 11 Dallas/Fort Worth: Facial recognition use by North Texas police grows along with privacy concerns

The CBS 11 News I-Team discovered facial recognition is used by more than a half dozen North Texas law enforcement agencies, in some cases with little public awareness. Local law enforcement agencies said they use the technology as a tool to generate leads in cases that otherwise might turn cold. But while detectives point to the technology's effectiveness in generating leads, law enforcement agencies also note its imperfections. At times, the technology can trigger an incorrect match.

HIRING

Akron Beacon Journal: Akron tweaks hiring rules to attract diversity in safety forces

Akron is relaxing age limits, reopening its police academy and offering to pay police cadets while in training - all in an effort to increase diversity and raise interest in working for the city's understaffed safety forces.

MENTAL ILLNESS

Albuquerque Journal: Police learn to deal with mentally ill residents

The videoconference project is called CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Options). It consists of weekly videoconference workshops and has existed in Albuquerque for more than three years. Originally a statewide project, it has spread across the nation along with interest in improving interactions between police and people with a mental illness. On the call this week were police and professionals from Texas, Illinois and North Carolina. For years, similar ECHO projects have existed for health care professionals to help providers in rural parts of the state treat various health conditions. But Albuquerque police were the first to roll out a program for law enforcement officers.

IMMIGRATION

ProPublica: Pennsylvania police now limited in flagging undocumented immigrants to ICE

Last year, ProPublica and The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that the Pennsylvania State Police had no guidelines preventing troopers from engaging in behavior that raised questions of racial profiling and unlawful arrests. That behavior is now forbidden in Pennsylvania, according to new state police regulations that went into effect last week, aimed at halting unlawful searches and detentions.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Houston Chronicle: Collaboration between law enforcement agencies is key to disrupting human trafficking

While efforts by community groups to bring attention to human trafficking in the region have been successful across Harris County and some neighboring counties, where the Houston Police Department has established a federally-funded human trafficking task force aimed at identifying, apprehending and prosecuting those engaged in the practice, not all law enforcement believe the problem is as widespread as nonprofits say it is. To be truly successful in putting a dent into trafficking activity, collaboration between agencies is crucial, said Houston Police Department Sgt. John Wall, who heads the task force.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS

Hartford (CT) Courant: 40 Hartford officers now wearing body cameras, as department hopes to improve relationship with the community

Hartford officials on Monday launched the first phase of a police body camera program, equipping 40 officers to record police activity, promote transparency and improve community relations.

New Jersey Monthly: Camden revisited: A new approach to policing

In May 2013, Camden disbanded its 141-year-old municipal police department and replaced it with a force run by the county. The force, it was declared, would be more visible and would better connect with the community. The hope was that this radical move would help lower crime and violence in the beleaguered city. Camden's situation was dire. The prior year, the city had a record-high murder rate and was listed among the five most crime-plagued cities in the country. Something had to change. Fast-forward almost six years. Camden County Police Chief J. Scott Thomson says the situation is improving. "Based on the metrics for the last five years," says Thomson, "every crime category has experienced a double-digit reduction, with precipitous drops in homicides, violent crime and overall crime." Total crime, adds Thomson, is at a 50-year low.

MAJOR EVENTS

WSB 2 Atlanta: Atlanta police chief thrilled with Super Bowl response; relieved it's over

From pride, to relief, to a little exhaustion. That's how Atlanta's police chief said her department feels Monday as Super Bowl LIII winds down. The one thing Atlanta police Chief Erika Shields said she will remember is that all of their preparation paid off.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Athens (GA) Banner-Herald: New Athens police chief sees challenges, opportunities ahead

Cleveland Spruill's calendar was full Monday as he began settling into his position as the new police chief of Athens-Clarke County. On his first day as head of an agency with more than 300 sworn and civilian positions, Spruill said he had seen enough of Athens to form positive initial impressions.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Baltimore Sun: Proposed $275,000 salary for Baltimore police commissioner pick would be significant bump from recent chiefs

Baltimore's next police commissioner could earn a $275,000 annual salary. The Board of Estimates, which is controlled by Mayor Catherine Pugh, is expected to vote Wednesday on the proposed salary for Michael Harrison, the recently retired New Orleans Police superintendent and Pugh's pick for Baltimore's next police commissioner.

Telegram Newspaper (MI): Inkster Police Chief William T. Riley optimistic about 2019

William T. Riley arrived in Inkster in 2015 from Selma, Alabama, and immediately set to work at repairing the fractured relationship between the department and the residents of Inkster. He reorganized the department, adding more officers to patrol the streets of the city. Riley also reached out to the community: religious leaders, businesses, and organizations. With their assistance, Riley instituted the strategy of community policing, which emphasizes building ties between the police department and the community. The efforts have paid off; overall crime has fallen by 24 percent over the past three years.

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